

International Working Group Meeting Notes

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

9 September 2004, 3 pm ET, National Science Foundation, Room 920

Co-Chairs: Larry Roeder (State/IO), Larry Weber (NSF), Fernando Echavarria (State/OES)

Members Present:

1. Dennis Wenger, NSF
2. Katy Vincent, NOAA
3. Larry Roeder, State/IO/SGA
4. Larry Weber, NSF
5. Will Hottel, GRS Solutions

1. Previous Meeting Minutes

A media seminar will be held December 7th to enhance pre- and post-disaster relationships and transfer of information between Federal agencies and the media. At the next meeting of the IWG, Mr. Roeder will distribute a concept paper related to the media and discuss the ways in which it can be blended with the Dubno website (<http://disasterlinks.net/>). Mr. Roeder's intention is to enhance the ISDR website by leveraging Mr. Dubno's work.

2. World Conference on Disaster Reduction

1. Following the upcoming UN preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18-22 January 2005), the State Department will cable embassies to advertise the World Conference and encourage broad participation. Mr. Roeder will write individual cables to embassies of special interest (e.g., South Africa) and a general cable for all regions. Mr. Roeder also may use the Department's live broadcast service to broadcast live TV discussions to posts about the WCDR. Posts are asked to invite into their receiving studios local experts with an interest in disaster risk reduction.
2. Larry Roeder will set up National Platform Meetings over the coming months to make final preparations for the WCDR. The National Platform is open to all SDR members, regional representatives from the Department of State, and experts from the private sector and other agencies, at the group's discretion. The role of the National Platform is to coordinate U.S. policy on ISDR. Private sector experts cannot make decisions that directly affect the government. Dennis Wenger will invite Corwin Telly from the University of Delaware.
3. Larry Roeder is waiting for IWG member feedback on the National Report to the WCDR. He will need comments from members by September 28th so that a revised paper can be available next week.
4. Larry Roeder will locate the latest version of the ISDR outcomes document and will report on it next week. He also will request final guidance from members of the Platform.
5. Larry Roeder developed a plan of action to refine the current science and technology position papers to be used at WCDR. Lead agencies by topic:

- **Building Costs and Reconstruction:** DOT, NIST, HUD, FEMA, AID, NSF
- **Preservation of Historic Resources:** Smithsonian Institute, State, BIA
- **Global Forecasting:** NOAA, NASA
- **Sustained Earth Observations:** NOAA, NASA
- **Impact of Population Growth:** HUD, UNC, Chapel Hill, DOI
- **Animal Welfare:** State-OES, Agriculture, BIA
- **Enhanced Information Sharing:** State-OES, INR/GDIN
- **Insurance:** World Bank, AID
- **Community Engagement:** BIA, DOI, FEMA, AIS
- **Women in Prevention and Resolution of Diseases:** State, NSF
- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities:** AID, FEMA, HUD, HHS
- **Effective Warning and Evacuation Modeling for Flood Plane Regions:** NOAA, USGS, Army Corp. of Engineers
- **The Role of Mass Media:** FCC, NAB

The IWG also recommended that a paper be distributed at WCDR briefing member nations on the Grand Challenges. The U.S. delegation to the preparatory conference for the WCDR in October should be named by September 23.

3. Enhancement of the National Platform for ISDR

Subsequent to the meeting, the following officers joined the National Platform for ISDR. All are from the Department of State. Any member of SDR also may join.

- WHA/PPC: Eric Falls
- WHA/PPC: Alain Norman
- SA/RA: Anish Goel
- EAP/RSP: Szu-Nien Su
- AF/RA: Don Heflin
- NEA/RA: Stephen R. Fox
- NEA/RA: Alexander O. Dehgan
- EUR/PGI: Brett Pomainville
- OES: Cynthia Brady

4. U.S. Delegation to the Preparatory Committee

Subsequent to the meeting, the US Delegation to the Preparatory Committee was nominated. As of this writing, the names are being vetted by the White House.

Representative: Larry Winter Roeder, Jr., Policy Advisor on Disaster Management, Department of State

Alternative Representative: Lisa Carle, Economic Counselor, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.

Advisers:

- Joel Danies, Acting Political Counselor, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.
- Michael Peay, Legal Advisor, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.
- Nance Kyloh, Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.
- Stacy Barrios, Human Rights Officer, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.
- Donna Lee, Economics Officer, US Mission to the UN, Geneva.
- Cynthia Brady, Office of Global Change, Bureau of Oceans and Environmental Affairs, US Department of State

Private Sector Adviser: Dr. Allen LeRoy Clark, Executive Director, Pacific Disaster Center

5. Next Meetings of the International Working Group

There are no scheduled meetings of the International Working Group at this time; all items for discussion will be handled by email.